THE

Theatrical Observer:

AND

Daily Bills of the Play.

"Nothing extenuate nor set down aught in malice."

No. 561 Wednesday, Sept. 10, 1823. Price 1d.

HAY-MARKET.

LAST night, after a very entertaining performance of *Matrimony*, and *The Young Quaker*, a new Farce was produced under the title of *The Great Unknown*. Every one, of course, presumed that the author of *Waverley*, &c. was some way alluded to under this appellation which has been bestowed upon him. It proved so: but, we are sorry to say, if *The Great Unknown* himself had really appeared in the piece, the circumstance would not save it from the fate it met with, which was complete condemnation after a most attentive hearing from a crowded and very genteel audience.

It may not be very interesting after this to detail the Plot, but we may as well inform our readers, that the chief object of the author was to derive humor from the efforts of a foolish Craniologist and his equally silly sister, the ardent admirer of the *works* of the Great Unknown Scotch Novelist. *Mr. Cranberry*, (TERRY) a pupil of SPURZHEIM, is with his family, consisting of his maiden sister, (Mrs. C. JONES) a hungry lacquey, (W. WEST) an impudent maid servant, (MRS. GIBBS) a young gentleman visiter, Mr. *Henry*, (JOHNSON) all storm-staid at his country-house in Derbyshire. During the severe snow-storm, news is brought that a man has sunk in the snow and nothing was to be seen but his *head*. This interesting intelligence to the old craniologist causes him to sally out to inspect this new subject, and presently a shivering frost-bitten, being, is brought in who is known to *Henry* as a London dyer, (LISTON) come to inspect some *new works*, for some dying process in the vicinity. But *Miss Cranberry* discovers that this unknown is dressed very like "the Great Unknown," according to the description of *Doctor Dryasdust*. She, therefore, conceives him to be the "*author of Waverley*," which is confirmed when the Dyer refers to his *new works*. In the mean time there is a *thaw*, which brings coals, beef, bread, and—*Miss Ellen*, niece of old *Cranberry*, who in fact feels a melting tenderness for *Mr. Henry*, and the result is that they must be married, whilst the *Dyer* and *Miss Cranberry*, after a little indifferent equivoque, which was not marked with strict propriety, come to some very different conclusion. This really was a very meagre Farce, particularly in respect to dialogue. If it had been well-written some of the scenes might have proved effective; but it was quite destitute of any merit beyond two or three situations. Mr. LISTON did not appear to have had the least expectation of its success.

ENGLISH OPERA HOUSE.

THERE was last night one of the most crowded houses of the season, to see Mr. MATHEWS, as *Dick Cypher*, "steeped in the follies of 1823." This is an ingenious way of bringing the *Tom and Jerry* mania to a focus. Mr. MATHEWS *hits* the eye and ear of the fancy, as completely as he *lashes* the absurdities of the four-in-hand. He is quite *at home* in this character. Mr. RAYNER was again very successful as *Jerry Blossom;* his trepidation at the idea of being attacked by the "dog wi'e three heads" was very amusing. Mr. POWER is a *nate* enough bog-trotter. Miss POVEY was a pleasing *Dolly O'Rourke.* Miss HOLDAWAY makes a pretty *Clara;* but we intreat of her to get rid of a habit of dropping her head alternately on each shoulder—it has an air of affectation, which audiences detest. We think this very young lady will, with attention, become a favourite.

The Edinburgh Observer says, "Miss Paton, who was to appear here on the re-opening of the Theatre, has been obliged to go into the country, in consequence of the delicate state of her health."

Miss Stephens, is engaged for Covent-garden Theatre during the ensuing season at a high salary. Mr. Liston is re-engaged a Drury.

"*Giovanni in London,*" which was got up at the Edinburgh Theatre, on account of Madame VESTRIS's success in London as the gay Don, was received with much opposition on the first night. It was repeated on that lady's benefit-night, in a curtailed form, but such a piece is not calculated for the sober-minded Scots.

CHELTENHAM THEATRE.—Mr. and Mrs. CONNOR had their benefit here on last Thursday; CUMBERLAND'S Comedy of *The West Indian,* and Mr. PEAKE'S humorous Farce of *The Duel; or, My Two Nephews,* were performed. Mr. C. KEMBLE has been playing here with much distinction.

Songs in the new Comedy of 'Sweethearts and Wives.'

Song—Mrs. Bell—*When I was a maid.*
Song—Sandford—*Thy cheek, my sweet fair.*
Song—Laura—*Go, rover, go, from clime to clime.*
Duet—Sandford and Laura—*The off'rings, Love, we bring to thee.*
Song—Billy Lackaday—*Sure mortal man was born to sorrow.*
Song—Mrs. Bell—*Oh, a secret, a secret's a hard thing to keep.*
Song—Sandford—*My Laura's smile, when last we met.*
Song—Susan—*I'll ne'er be a maiden forsaken.*
Duet—Susan and Billy Lackaday---*How can you abuse an easy woman so.*
Song—Sandford---*Farewell to love! tis snares I fly.*
Song---Laura---*Why are you wandering here, I pray?*
Duet---Laura and Sandford---*Pray leave me as you found me.*
Finale---Sandford---*Constant hearts, Old England's boast.*

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Theatre Royal, Hay-Market.

This Evening, the Farce of

The Gay Deceivers,

Mr. Candy, Mr LEE, Mr. Wellworth, Mr LEONI LEE,
Sir Harry Popinjay, Mr VINING, Trap, Mr JOHNSON,
Nehemiah Flam, Mr HARLEY, Pegasus Puncheon, Mr WILLIAMS,
Gardener, Mr Hammond, Waterman, Mr C. Jones, Waiter, Mr Wynne.
Emily, Miss J. SCOTT, Mrs. Flam, Mrs C. JONES,
Jenny Stumps, Mrs GIBBS,

After which, the Operatic Comedy of

Sweethearts & Wives

With New Music, Scenes, and Dresses.

The Music by Messrs. WHITAKER, NATHAN, T. COOKE, & PERRY

Admiral Franklin, Mr. TERRY,
Charles Franklin, Mr. VINING,
Sandford, Mr DAVIS, Curtis, Mr WILLIAMS,
Billy Lackaday, Mr. LISTON,
Laura, Miss LOVE,
Eugenia, Miss CHESTER, Susan, Mrs GARRICK,
Mrs. Bell, Mrs C. JONES,

To conclude with a new Farce, in 2 Acts, with Songs, called

"Fish out of Water."

The Music composed by Mr PERRY.

Sir George Courtley, Mr POPE,
Alderman Gayfare, Mr YOUNGER,
Charles Gayfare, Mr VINING,
Steward, Mr WILLIAMS, Footman, Mr Wynne,
Sam Savoury, Mr LISTON,
Ellen Courtley, Miss LOVE, Lucy, Miss SMITH,

To-morrow, The Highland Reel, with Simpson and Co. &c.

Theatre Royal English Opera House.

This Evening, (first time) a new Operetta, called

A DUN A DAY.

The Music composed by Mr Reeve.

Old Rakely, (in love with nobody,) Mr ROWBOTHAM,
Young Rakely, (in love with Caroline) Mr BAKER,
Shirk, (in love with his place) Mr W. CHAPMAN,
Mr Bracelet, (a Jeweller—*Monday Dun*) Mr LODGE,
Mr Rigid, (a Money-lender—*Tuesday Dun*) Mr MEARS,
Mr Hermitage, (a Wine Merchant—*Wednesday Dun*) Mr SHIELD,
Mr Hay, (a Horse-Dealer—*Thursday Dun*) Mr SANDER,
Mr Plush, (a Master Tailor, in love with his ledger—*Friday Dun* Mr BARTLEY,
Mr Capias, (an Attorney at Law—*Saturday Dun*) Mr MINTON.
Caroline, (in love with Young Rakely) Miss CARR,
Frill, (her Servant, in love with Shirk) Mrs. J. WEIPPERT.

After which, an Operatic Drama, in 2 Acts, called,

THE YOUTHFUL DAYS OF GIL BLAS.

Gil Blas, (aged Seventeen) Miss KELLY, Corcuelo, Mr SALTER,
Gil Perez, [the Canon] Mr W. BENNETT,
Picaro, [an adept in disguise] Mr WRENCH,
Rolando, [Captain of Banditti] Mr T. P. COOKE,
Ambrose de Lamela, } his Associates, { Mr WILKINSON'
Lope, } { Mr MINTON,
Domingo, [an old Negro Attendant in the Cavern] Mr J. KNIGHT,
Donna Mencia, Miss POVEY, Leonarda, Mrs BRYAN,

To conclude with, (27th time) a new ROMANCE, called,

PRESUMPTION.

Felix De Lacey, Mr BROADHURST, Frankenstein, Mr WALLACK,
De Lacey, a banished Gentleman, Mr ROWBOTHAM,
Fritz, Mr KEELEY, Clerval, Mr BLAND, William, Master Bodea
Hammerpan, Mr SALTER, Tanskin, Mr MINTON.
(————) Mr T. P. COOKE,
Elizabeth, [Sister of Frankenstein] Mrs AUSTIN,
Agatha de Lacey, Miss L. DANCE, Safie, Miss HOLDAWAY,
Madame Ninon, [Wife of Fritz] Mrs J. WEIPPERT,

To-morrow, Hit or Miss, The Miller's Maid, & Guardians Outwitted